A Giant Leap: Writing About Neil Armstrong

Learning objective: To write a clear and structured biography about the life and achievements of Neil Armstrong using chronological order.

Use this scaffold to help you write a biography about the first person to walk on the Moon. Remember to use capital letters for names of people and places, and include the dates that tell us when things happened.

Neil Armstrong was a famous American astronaut who made history by being the very first person to step foot on the Moon.

Word bank: firstly · after that · meanwhile · consequently · finally · in 1969 · a courageous explorer · a historic moment · the mission

1. Early Life: Where was Neil Armstrong born and what was he interested in when he was a young boy? Start your paragraph with: Neil Armstrong was born in... (2 marks)

2. Training and Career: What did Neil do before he became an astronaut? Use these starters: Before heading into space, Neil worked as... He trained hard to... (2 marks)

3. The Moon Landing: Describe the Apollo 11 mission using the date 1969. Start with: In July 1969, the Apollo 11 mission began. The spacecraft was called... (3 marks)

4. The First Step: What did Neil say when he stepped onto the Moon? Start with: When Neil Armstrong stepped onto the surface, he famously said... (2 marks)

5. Conclusion: Why do we remember Neil Armstrong today? Start with: Neil Armstrong is remembered as a hero because... (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are an astronaut on the Apollo 11 mission. Write three sentences describing what you might see when you look out of the spacecraft window towards Earth.